

The Great War—1491st Day

and German rear guards, additional ground has been gained.

The enemy artillery seems to have stiffened all along the line.

Villages which have been taken at the crest of the advance had previously been evacuated by the enemy. In at least one town some French inhabitants, including women, managed to hide themselves in the cellars, and after enduring several days of shelling, first from the approaching British, then from the retreating Germans, finally were rescued.

Women Are Rescued

When British patrols approached the town of Ecourt-St. Quentin three men in civilian clothing emerged to meet them. On the strength of the story they told the British troops rushed into the town and there found forty-six persons, thirty of whom were women, hiding in cellars. They were helped out, and came back across the battlefield, struggling over shell craters, and occasionally menaced by a hail of indirect machine gun fire from the Germans.

It was a strange and pitiful procession. Both men and women had been under the domination of the Germans since September, 1914. They had not seen a single Allied soldier since then, for this was the first time that the ground in the locality of their village had been out of the possession of the Germans since the beginning of the war.

There were unkempt old Frenchmen, staring at the bare, shell-shattered fields and roads alive with troops, and women carrying parcels or limpingly pushing perambulators or carrying children.

They were almost delirious with joy as they threaded their way to the rear between long stretches of guns, ambulances, horses and khaki-clad soldiers. On the road they passed men who had been wounded or killed; the combination of such sights and their grateful emotions at being delivered from the Germans sending tears streaming down their thin cheeks. More than one

laughed and cried alternately as they again trod the free soil of France and tried to thank the soldiers who had helped them from their bondage.

The three men who had first come out of the town to meet the British returned to-day, but the rest of the party, becoming frightened by the enemy shelling, had found shelter in the dugouts up at the front. They were given warm food and advised to remain there for a while.

One man told a story of how when the town was gassed he had searched around until he found a dead German and removed his gas mask, taking it back to his mother, who was hiding in a cellar. On September 1, he declared, the entire population was ordered evacuated by the Germans. Some decided that, rather than risk the chance of escape, they would hide and await deliverance. The Germans, anxious to get away themselves, did not take time to search the town thoroughly.

The refugees said that since 1914 the food had steadily become worse, until at last it was just enough to keep them alive, but it did not give them sufficient strength to work. It was almost impossible for them to get clothing, and there was nothing whatever they could buy. They had not been allowed to leave their little town since the Germans first swept into it almost four years ago.

Lens Evacuated by
Foe, but Gas Fumes
Hinder Occupation

LONDON, Sept. 4 (4.25 p. m.). The city of Lens has been definitely evacuated by the Germans, according to reports from Northern France to-day. The British, it is stated, are refraining from occupying it only because of the gas fumes remaining there.

Patrols protected against the fumes have entered the city, it is stated, and it is clear of the enemy.

It has been definitely established that in trying to stem the drive begun by the Allies on August 8 the Germans have used twenty-five of their divisions. Eight other divisions have been recreated and sent back into the fighting, with three companies instead of the normal four to a battalion.

At least two divisions of Austrian troops have been in action.

The British losses are still reported lighter than might be expected in operations of this magnitude.

Prisoners Tell of Big Reserves

Some German prisoners taken in the battle talk confidently of the impending arrival of a great reserve army under General von Mackensen, who will turn the tables on the Allied forces, but obviously it is impossible here to throw any light on such reports. Whatever the future may hold, the actual situation is regarded as one of extraordinary promise for the Allies and containing the possibility of the more abandonment of the entire northern German front, including the Flanders coast.

The military critic of "The Telegraph," in discussing the possibility of the German reserves, writes: "The counter blow dismisses the subject with the remark that 'the counter blow of the American reserves will bind the German reserves like a spell.'"

In previous successes the lack of strong reserves proved a serious handicap exploited to the utmost. On this occasion Marshal Foch has in our American armies ample forces available if he determines to press the blow.

"We are witnessing the collapse of the prestige of the Prussian military machine. We have the whip hand as we never had it before in this war, and we hold it with a constantly increasing reserve of power, both in men and material, against which the enemy has nothing comparable."

"The weight of the American army has not yet been felt into the scale, but it is there waiting to be released in positions which fill us with the highest expectations and the enemy with the deepest concern."

Pershing Reports
Capture of 4 More
Villages on Vesle

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4.—American troops in close pursuit of the Germans retiring north of the Vesle have captured the villages of Bazoches, Perles, Fismette and Dailly, taking prisoners and machine guns, General Pershing reported in his communique for to-day, received to-night at the War Department.

The American forces, General Pershing said, have reached the general line Vaucoures-Blanczy-Le Grand Hammeau. American aviators also have successfully bombed the railroad yards at Longuey, Domary-Daroucourt and Conflans.

La Fere in Flames
As French Pursue
Foe East of Noyon

(By The Associated Press)

PARIS, Sept. 4.—General Humbert's third army has been fighting a desperate battle for the last two days north of Noyon, along the line of the Canal du Nord, in the neighborhood of Champagne and Geny. The determination of the French troops eventually overcame the powerful resistance of the enemy, who early to-day began to give way along the entire front.

The Germans had resolved to hold on here and had fortified the canal in the most formidable manner with great fields of barbed wire, cemented shelters and defense systems bristling with machine guns hidden behind enormous logs.

The enemy machine gunners had received orders to hold at all costs and die at their posts rather than give ground. In many instances they did so, and the advance of the French had to be made foot by foot.

The French had brought a great array of artillery to bear on the woods and villages fronting them. The enemy guns were also extremely active, and counter attacks were frequent.

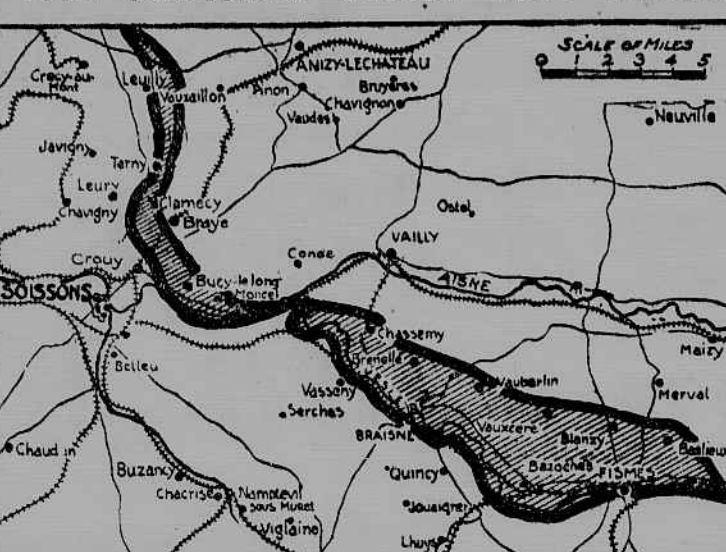
The object of the French maneuver was to attain the northern border of the hilly mass formed by Autrecourt Wood, thus menacing Guiscard.

When the German line began to give way French cavalry joined in the action, and early this morning reached the farm of St. Martin, on the road between Noyon and Guiscard.

The infantry advanced to a front running through Salency, Bourbetsuse and eastward through Tartelette, Poilbarche, Criselles and Preloy-le-Chateau. Behind the German lines Jussey, Châny and La Fere can be seen in flames.

The French are pursuing the enemy and keeping closest touch.

THE RETREAT FROM THE VESLE



In pressing the retreating enemy in his retreat yesterday from the Vesle line the Franco-Americans occupied the shaded area. The upper solid line represents the present fighting zone.

The Official Statements

BRITISH

LONDON (NIGHT).—English and Welsh troops forced a passage of the Tortille River and the Canal du Nord on a wide front north of Moislains. During the early part of the day the enemy held the east banks of the river and canal, and with artillery and machine gun fire endeavored to arrest our advance at this line.

Despite the natural strength of the enemy's positions our troops advanced with great dash and courage, and carried the villages of Manancourt and Eticourt. Overcoming the obstacles presented by the canal and river, they made substantial progress on the rising ground to the east.

Further north English and New Zealand divisions have taken Ruylacourt and reached the northern outskirts of Havrincourt Wood, east of the canal line. Other English divisions gained the west bank of the canal opposite Demicourt and Boursies, beating off a counter attack.

English troops entered Moeuvres from the north, and the fighting continued here among the old Hindenburg line defences.

In the course of our advance further prisoners and material have fallen into our hands, including two of three German tanks used by the enemy in an unsuccessful counter attack on August 31.

On the Lys front, also, we made progress at different points.

LONDON (DAY). On the battle-front minor actions are reported in different localities. We have reached the east side of the Vaux Woods, north of Moislains, and have advanced slightly at other points.

Generally our troops have reached the line of the Canal du Nord, and north of the Arras-Cambrai road have occupied Ecourt St. Quentin.

In the Lys sector further progress was made by us yesterday and last night both south and north of the river. Our troops are approaching Neuve Chapelle and Laventie, and have gained possession of Sully-sur-Lallys, Nieppe and Le Romarin.

GERMAN

BERLIN (NIGHT). Up to the present no important fighting activities have been reported.

Between the Scarpe and the Somme the enemy felt his way forward to our new lines. Between the Ailette and the Aisne fresh French attacks were repulsed.

BERLIN (DAY).—On both sides of the Lys the enemy, in continuous battle with our forward troops, worked ahead as far as the line of Wulvenhem, Nieppe, Bac-St. Maur, Laventie and Richebourg. Our mixed detachments in these minor engagements effectively damaged the enemy, and by means of a sharp attack took prisoners.

On the battlefield between the Scarpe and the Somme the day was quiet.

The night before last we had withdrawn our troops on the line of Arieux, Moeuvres and Rancourt. These movements had been prepared for some days and were carried out

in accordance with plan undisturbed by the enemy. The enemy hesitatingly followed during the afternoon.

FRENCH

PARIS (NIGHT).—Our troops, after having broken on the preceding days the stubborn resistance of the enemy, forced him to-day to retreat north of the Oise and on the Vesle front. Between the Canal du Nord and the Oise our advanced elements, on the heels of the enemy rear guards, have gone beyond Libermont and reached the outskirts of Esmery-Hallon and occupied the Bois de l'Hopital.

Further south our lines extend along Frenches, Guiscard, Bezuges, Grandru, Mondescourt and Appilly. More to the east we crossed the Ailette and reached Marizelle, northeast of Manicamp. The enemy left in our hands numerous prisoners, guns and material and considerable supplies.

Between the Ailette and the Aisne the battle continued on the plateau north of Soissons.

Menaced on his right flank, the enemy has retired north of the Vesle. We took Bucy-le-Long and Moncel, north of the Aisne.

Further to the right our troops, having crossed the Vesle on a front of thirty kilometers, advanced beyond Chassemy, Brenelle, Vauverlin, Vaugere and Blancy, and gained a footing on the northern crest of Baslieux.

PARIS (DAY). Yesterday during the day and night the French continued to press back the enemy east of the Canal du Nord and between the Ailette and the Aisne.

French troops captured the Chapitre Wood, northeast of Chevilly, and further south French elements advanced, pursuing the enemy, and are approaching Criselles.

North of the Ailette the French carried their lines to the western outskirts of Coucy-le-Chateau and Juvenecourt. To the south the French progressed east of Leuilly and reached the outskirts of Clamecy and Braye, and penetrated Bucy-le-Long. The number of prisoners taken in that region exceed 500.

On the Vesle front French elements crossed that river at several points.

ITALIAN

ROME—Yesterday, north of the head of the Noca Valley, strong enemy columns attacked from the east, after artillery fire, our positions to the south of Mantello. They were arrested with heavy losses by our fire. The enemy succeeded in occupying two observation posts established on the crest between Mantello and San Matteo Point.

Enemy patrols were dispersed on the Asinio Plateau and in the Brenta Valley. Our batteries were somewhat active against the enemy lines of communication.

AMERICAN

Section A (Sept. 3).—Aside from successful patrol encounters along the Vesle and a hostile raid in Lorraine, which was repulsed, there is nothing to report.

Victory Close at
Hand, Says Paris

LONDON, Sept. 4.—Paris papers to-day print the following semi-official statement:

"The hour seems close at hand when the superb efforts of the Allies will begin to bear fruit," one of our great chiefs said yesterday. "We are on the last lap and close to the winning post."

There was still no sign of the expected German counter stroke on the Western front, which must soon be delivered if General Ludendorff wishes to save the situation.

Prisoners speak of a great mysterious army, headed by General Mackensen, which is ready to pounce on the Allies, but its whereabouts is unknown.

Lenine's Condition
Reported Critical

LONDON, Sept. 4.—The condition of Nikolai Lenine, the Bolshevik Premier, against whose life an attempt was made last Friday, has become critical, according to a dispatch from Moscow to the Central News Agency. The crisis is expected within three days. Surgeons have removed a bullet from Lenine's body.

Gen. Joffre Again
Thanks Americans

Cables Appreciation and Gratitude of France for Generosity of U. S.

The following cable message, which was sent from Paris on August 18, was received yesterday at the New York headquarters of the Fatherless Children of France from Marshal Joffre, who is president of the organization in Paris:

"May I ask you to thank the members of the committees in America for their affectionate greetings on the anniversary of the battle of the Marne. I cannot resist the pleasure of expressing to you once again the gratitude of the whole of France for the generosity with which America came so spontaneously to the rescue of our widows and orphans."

"I have been told the details of the new effort which you plan shortly to make on behalf of our mortal work. I endorse it with my whole heart. It will indeed be a wonderful comfort and a splendid tonic to our soldiers to know that, thanks to you, should they fall gloriously on the battlefield, their wives and children will be cared for."

"This assurance will give them strength to carry on to the final victory and will draw still closer the bonds which already unite them to their new comrades in arms. This will be sealed for all time the brotherhood of two great countries, America and France."

"With sincere devotion, yours, 'JOFFRE'."

Crown Prince Admits U. S.
Is Now Big Factor in War

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 4.—The German idea of victory, as defined by the German Crown Prince, in an interview published in the Budapest "Az Est," is an intention "to hold our own and not let ourselves be vanquished."

The Crown Prince is quoted as saying that this was clear to him the moment England entered the war.

The Crown Prince denied that he was a "fire-eater," and continued: "If Germany had wanted war we should not have chosen this moment. No moment could have been more unfavorable for Germany."

In reply to the question as to how he thought the end of the war would come, he replied: "Through the enemy perceiving the colossal stake which they are not equal to winning, and that they cannot win as much as they are bound to lose."

In discussing the present operations on the Western front the Crown Prince said:

"The enemy attacks and the withdrawal on our front at several places are often wrongly interpreted in some circles. Some of our people are too accustomed to a continuous advance, and when a battle occurs wherein the enemy attacks and we have to defend ourselves the situation is not always correctly understood. In judging the situation, both military and political, we must never forget one thing—that we are waging a war of defense. The war is one of annihilation only for the enemy, not for us. We want to annihilate none of our enemies. We mean, however, to hold our own."

Regarding the American forces in France the Crown Prince said:

"I've found that the majority don't know what they are fighting for, but we feel of course the effect of the entry of the Americans. They have sent over very much war material, and now they are sending over very much human material."

"We speak openly of victory," the Crown Prince said. "The word victory must not be misunderstood to mean that we want to annihilate the enemy, but only that we mean to hold our own and not let ourselves be vanquished. The moment England entered the war

that was clear to me and I always emphasized it."

When the interviewer remarked that the Crown Prince was considered abroad as a "fire-eater," he answered:

"I am aware of these accusations. Do I need to say that not a word of them is true?"

Reverting to the question of what nation wanted the war, he declared that "it was clear that England would take advantage of the opportunity."

"Belgium, after all, was only a pretext," he continued. "England intervened because German competition was unbearable."

"We are fighting for our existence. I repeat our aim therefore can only be to safeguard ourselves."

"The enemy assault doubtless will continue for some time," the Crown Prince said with reference to the fighting on the Western front, "but our enemies must themselves see that they will not be able to attain their aim. Our troops are fighting splendidly, and I attribute to their courage that such colossal superiority in strength does not crush us."

Discussing the fighting qualities of Germany's enemies he said: "The French fight brilliantly and are bleeding to death. They do not hesitate at any sacrifice. With the English, the individual man is very good and tenacious, but the leadership is deficient. Among the Americans I've found that the majority do not know what they are fighting for. I asked an American prisoner what they were fighting for, and he answered: 'For Alsace,' and to the question: 'Where is Alsace?' he replied: 'It's a bug lake.'"

The Crown Prince admitted that he always had agitated in favor of strong armaments, foreseeing that Germany one day would be called upon to defend herself against the entire world. He said he regarded the present military situation as not precarious. He added that from a military viewpoint the French were Germany's most serious enemies. Marshal Joffre was a good commander and Marshal Foch also was a leader of great value.

The Crown Prince ended the interview with a reference to the Austro-Hungarians. He said he would not judge their value, except from their artillery working with the Germans, which had conducted itself superbly.

Military Comment

By William L. McPherson

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ACCORDING to Amsterdam dispatches, Chancellor von Hertling has announced that the Germans will make a stand behind the Oise River. If, as is also reported, General von Mackensen, the only German commander whose record remains unblemished by defeat, is organizing a great German reserve for immediate use on the Western front, it is not likely that he can get that reserve into action before Ludendorff's beaten armies fall back to a line of which the upper reaches of the Oise might form the backbone.

A retirement to such a front would involve the scrapping of the old Hindenburg line from La Fere north. It would require a German withdrawal from the Vesle and the Aisne—which has already begun—to a front running east from La Fere to Laon, and a further recession east of Rheims. From La Fere the Oise stretches north-northeast to Guise. Above Guise the Hertling line would probably turn slightly northwest to Le Cateau, thence to Valenciennes, on the Scheldt River, and down the Scheldt to Tournai and the North Sea.

A readjustment something like this would mean the surrender of St. Quentin, Cambrai, Douai and Lille. Yet the German High Command now faces the necessity of surrendering broad belts of territory in order to cut losses, reorganize and refit its forces and regain a certain strategic freedom of action. It is now fighting under conditions fixed by Foch and must pay an exorbitant penalty so long as it cannot escape from that predicament. Only a successful stand and a succession of counter attacks could restore the morale of the German armies and liberate them from the pitiless pressure which has been strangling them for the last six weeks.

It is evident that Ludendorff cannot hold the old Hindenburg line north of La Fere. His retreat toward Cambrai and St. Quentin continues unchecked. The Canal du Nord, running north from Peronne to Douai, offered him another line of resistance. But of what value as an obstacle is a mere canal to troops which have just smashed elaborate defense zones like the Wotan and Queant-Drocourt "lines"? The Canal du Nord held up the Third and First British armies for only a few hours. The Third Army had

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retreating Germans on a twenty-mile front. General Mangin's operations north of Soissons have made a German retreat to and beyond the Aisne inevitable. He has brilliantly fought his way against very stubborn resistance to the western end of the Chemin des Dames, and has also nearly surrounded Coucy-le-Chateau.

He is up to the Hindenburg line here and is threatening one of its chief bastions—the Forest of St. Gobain. Ludendorff is obliged to draw back from the Vesle to the Ailette, just as he has been obliged to draw sullenly out of the Lys Valley salient. The whole German Western line from Rheims north has become insecure. To find a new line which will not crack under Foch's continuous pressure is now the great German problem.

Archie Roosevelt
Visits Father's Home

OYSTER BAY, L. I., Sept. 4.—Without any one in the village being aware of his presence and with no demonstration, Captain Archie Roosevelt returned to his father's home at Sagamore Hill late this afternoon. Less than a minute after his arrival, the young captain was holding his five-month-old baby boy, Archie, Jr., whom he had never seen, while Colonel Roosevelt, his mother and his young wife, who was Miss Mary S. Lockwood, of Boston, gathered about him.

To-night all visitors were courteously but firmly refused admittance to Sagamore Hill. Seated around the dinner table were the members of the Roosevelt family, holding the first family reunion of any kind since this country entered the war.

The arrival of Captain Roosevelt was almost as much a surprise to his father, mother and wife as to the townspeople. Quite unexpectedly, he had been transferred Tuesday night from the hospital at Newport News to the Columbia Base Hospital, Gun Hill Road, The Bronx.

Captain Roosevelt refused absolutely to discuss the war, his brother's death or his own wounds. Colonel Roosevelt said his son could not talk of such matters at all.

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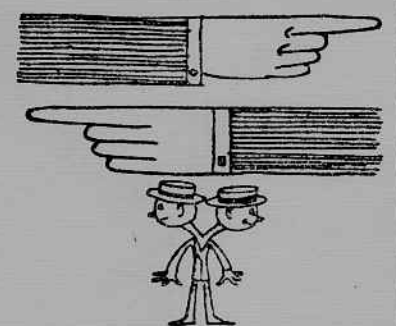
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The young captain, whose left arm is partly paralyzed and whose left leg was badly shattered by shell fire, will return to the hospital in the morning.



It's perplexing not knowing just which way to turn. Maybe it will help a bit to know that standards here are just as high as before the war.

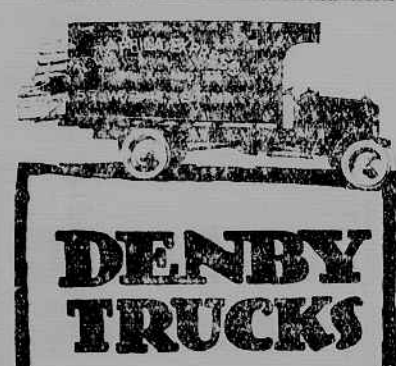
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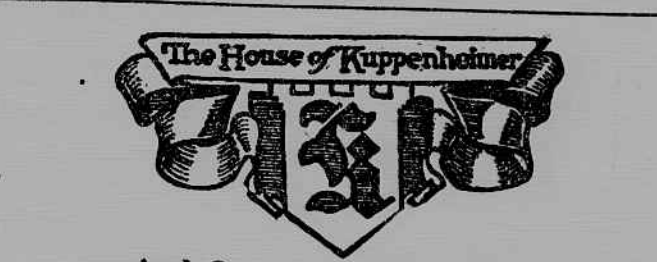


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